HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 50 FILED ON: 1/6/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 181

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Peter J. Koutoujian

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying:

An Act relative to dementia special care units in long-term care facilities.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Peter J. Koutoujian	*10th Middlesex*

HOUSE DOCKET, NO. 50 FILED ON: 1/6/2011

HOUSE . . . . . No. 181

By Mr. Koutoujian of Waltham, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 181) of Peter J. Koutoujian relative to dementia special care units in long term care facilities. Elder Affairs.

[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION
SEE HOUSE, NO. *537* OF 2009-2010.]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

An Act relative to dementia special care units in long-term care facilities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 71B the following section:-

Section 71C. (a) A licensee under section 71 that holds itself out to the public or advertises that it is a provider of specialized services and programming for dementia special care units in long-term care facilities must meet the criteria set forth under this section in order to provide said services.

(b) Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the department of public health, in consultation with the Alzheimer?s Association of Massachusetts and representatives from the nursing home provider community, shall adopt regulations to establish minimum standards for dementia special care units to ensure safety and quality of services including:

Dementia-specific training for all direct care workers in nursing homes in both traditional and dementia special care units (SCUs).

Activities programs in SCUs that provide dementia-specific activities.

Guidelines for SCU physical design including but not limited to anti-wandering methods and a therapeutic environment.

16 Nursing homes that operate SCUs must disclose to consumers and the Massachusetts
17 Department of Public health what specialized services the SCU provides for patients affected by
18 Alzheimer?s and related dementias.

19 SECTION 2. ?The department of public health shall adopt its initial regulations to
20 implement this act not later than January 1, 2010.